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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, JULY 3, 2001

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

TERESA WHITMORE, et al.

v.

CASE NO. PUE010363

VALLEY RIDGE WATER COMPANY, INC.

PRELIMINARY ORDER

By notice dated May 12, 2001, pursuant to the Smaller Water or Sewer Public Utility Act (§ 56-265.13:1 et seq. of the Code of Virginia ("Code")), Valley Ridge Water Company, Inc. ("Valley Ridge" or the "Company"), notified its customers and the Commission's Division of Energy Regulation (the "Division") of its intent to increase its rates effective for service rendered on and after July 1, 2001.

By June 27, 2001, the Division had received objections to the proposed rate increase from 68 customers, or approximately forty percent (40%) of Valley Ridge's customers.

NOW THE COMMISSION, having considered the matter, is of the opinion that a hearing, pursuant to § 56-265.13:6 of the Code, should be scheduled in the above captioned matter. The Commission also is of the opinion that the implementation of the Company's proposed rates should be interim and subject to refund

pursuant to § 56-265.13:6 of the Code. We find that Valley Ridge should file certain financial information based on its operations on or before August 2, 2001. A procedural schedule establishing, among other things, the date of the hearing will be by separate order of the Commission.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) This matter shall be docketed and assigned Case No. PUE010363.

(2) The implementation of the Company's proposed rates shall be interim and subject to refund, with interest, pursuant to § 56-265.13:6 of the Code until such time as the Commission has made a final determination in this proceeding.

(3) On or before August 2, 2001, Valley Ridge shall file certain financial information with the Commission's Division of Public Utility Accounting. Such information shall include an income statement, balance sheet, customer consumption by month, cash flow statement based on utility operations for the calendar year ending December 31, 2000, the Company's most recent federal income tax return, and a rate of return statement, with work papers supporting all proposed adjustments to book amounts, which support the Company's proposed rate increase as required by the Commission's Rules Implementing the Small Water and Sewer Public Utility Act (20 VAC 5-200-40 et. seq.).

(4) This matter shall be continued subject to further order of the Commission.